



Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6371st meeting

Tuesday, 10 August 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalčić
	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Gabon	Mr. Mougara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Sumi
	Lebanon	Mr. Khachab
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . .	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/409)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/409)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Central African Republic, in which he requests that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophone World of the Central African Republic be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite the Minister to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I have also received a letter from the representative of Chad, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency General Antoine Gambi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophone World of the Central African Republic.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gambi (Central African Republic) and Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional

rules of procedure to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mahmoud to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/409, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Youssef Mahmoud. I now give the floor to Mr. Mahmoud.

Mr. Mahmoud: I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to present to the Security Council the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/409) on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). This is the first report since the Council adopted resolution 1923 (2010) on 25 May, authorizing a revised mandate for MINURCAT. The report before the Council contains an assessment of the security and humanitarian situations, of the progress made towards the fulfilment by the Government of Chad of the tasks and benchmarks set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1923 (2010), and of the implementation of the mandate of MINURCAT. The report also contains an assessment of international and regional options for the Central African Republic based on the Secretary-General's evaluation of the consequences of MINURCAT's departure from the north-eastern part of that country.

Following the adoption of resolution 1923 (2010), MINURCAT has worked to adjust its tasks and posture in eastern Chad to the new mandate. Accordingly, on 27 May its military component ceased all area security patrols and escorts, and confined its activities to those outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the resolution. By 15 July, MINURCAT's military component had been reduced to 2,174, with 1,878 in Chad and 296 in north-eastern Central African Republic, and is now based in four main locations —

three in eastern Chad and one in north-eastern Central African Republic.

As far as the security situation is concerned, I should like to summarize it as follows. Some criminal activities and banditry remained the main threat to security in eastern Chad during the one and a half months covered by the report. As in earlier periods, there have been no reports of deliberate targeting of civilians or of fresh significant internal displacements.

As of 27 May, when MINURCAT's military suspended area patrolling and escorts, the Government took over full responsibility for the security and protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in eastern Chad. Despite the complexities of the security situation and logistical and other limitations, the Government has spared no effort to rise to the challenge.

The *Détachement intégré de sécurité* (DIS) has increased its escorts of humanitarian workers and patrols in and around refugee camps and key cities by 21 to 25 per cent compared to earlier periods. On 1 July, the Government also launched a new system for the coordination of security patrols and escorts for humanitarian workers. This system, which is being established in 13 key locations in eastern Chad, will supersede the earlier coordination mechanism run by MINURCAT. The joint Chad-Sudan border force — whose headquarters are scheduled to move this month from El Geneina to Abéché — also continued to patrol along the border with a view to interdicting cross-border arms movement and banditry. This has resulted in an increase of cross-border trade and civilian population movement.

Following the spate of security incidents against humanitarians in June, President Déby replaced the Government of the Ouaddai region in Abéché. In July, the number of incidents decreased, also thanks to the start of the rainy season.

As far as the humanitarian situation is concerned, there have been encouraging reports of some returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The recent deterioration of the security situation in Darfur, however, has prompted new, albeit so far limited, arrivals of Sudanese refugees. Some 70 international humanitarian organizations continue to provide aid to the 255,000 Sudanese refugees and 168,000 internally displaced persons in eastern Chad, and to 64,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in south-

eastern Chad. An estimated 150,000 members of the host population also received humanitarian assistance.

Since April 2010, humanitarian actors have reported a steady stream of returns in the Dar Sila and Ouaddai regions, estimated at 20,000 people. Time will be required, however, to determine how many of these returns represent permanent or seasonal movements.

Pursuant to resolution 1923 (2010), on 1 June the Government of Chad and the United Nations launched the Joint High-Level Working Group, chaired by the head of the *Coordination nationale d'appui au déploiement de la force internationale à l'est du Tchad* and composed of representatives of MINURCAT, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Chadian security forces. The Joint High-Level Working Group has been meeting monthly to assess the situation on the ground with respect to the protection of civilians and the implementation of measures adopted by the Government towards implementing the tasks set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 1923 (2010).

In the meantime, MINURCAT continued to implement its mandate in the areas of the rule of law, including the provision of assistance and advice to the DIS and the justice and prison sectors in eastern Chad; human rights monitoring; and promotion and protection, with particular attention to sexual and gender-based violence. At the same time, it has produced plans to consolidate the gains achieved in these areas and to lay the foundation for their sustainability by the Government of Chad and its partners. In this regard, MINURCAT is discussing with the United Nations country team ways to help absorb some of the Mission's activities in the current planning processes, and particularly the early recovery plan for eastern Chad, on which the United Nations Development Programme is in the lead.

The sustainability of the DIS is an issue that will require sustained attention by the Government of Chad, especially given the short time remaining before MINURCAT's withdrawal. The Government and the United Nations have established a joint technical working group that has been working since June on a plan for the sustainability of the DIS.

MINURCAT, for its part, has already started activities towards the consolidation and sustainability of the DIS. Most of the construction projects in support of the DIS are expected to be completed by 31 December.

except the drilling of wells in the police stations, which can start only following the end of the rainy season in October.

As far as the Central African Republic is concerned, the Secretary-General has outlined in the report before the Council two options on how best to mitigate the impact of MINURCAT's departure from the north-eastern part of that country. The threat to civilians, IDPs, refugees and humanitarian workers in the north-eastern area remains real. The lack of sustained progress in combating security threats in north-eastern Central African Republic is mainly the result of the weak presence of its armed forces and the lack of logistical and other means from which it suffers.

In this context, the Secretary-General has presented two options to the Security Council. The first, as members may recall, provides for a United Nations peacekeeping force in north-eastern Central African Republic that would deter insecurity in the area and provide in extremis security and extraction for humanitarian actors until the Government has developed adequate capacity to assume this deterrent role. The Secretariat estimates that the deployment of approximately 1,000 personnel, military and civilian, would be needed. Preliminary estimates of the cost of the operation range anywhere between \$98 and \$122 million per year.

The second option would focus on strengthening long- to medium-term efforts in building the Central African Republic State capacities for security and the rule of law, coupled with immediate measures to strengthen the capability of the armed forces of the Central African Republic in the north-east. This option could be complemented by the deployment of joint border patrol forces between the Government of the Central African Republic on the one hand and those of Chad and the Sudan on the other, pursuant to agreements the Central African Republic signed with its neighbours some time ago.

Assistance for the strengthening of the Central African Republic's State and security capacity could be provided on a bilateral or multilateral basis, including through the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), with the support of the African Union (AU) and other regional implementing partners whose presence through the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) is,

in reality, in the Central African Republic. In preliminary contacts with ECCAS and MICOPAX officials, as well as the AU, most of these interlocutors have expressed readiness to examine this option.

Yesterday, Mr. President, you had a chance to meet with Foreign Minister Antoine Gambi, who conveyed to you the position of the Government of the Central African Republic. This position was expressed to me in June by Prime Minister Touadera and, in July, confirmed to me by President François Bozizé, who reiterated that the preferred option for the north-eastern Central African Republic would be the one that builds the capacity of the Central African Republic security forces.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report, and based on his assessment of the situation and the position of the Government of the Central African Republic as stated above, the Secretary-General is of the view that the second option is the more appropriate course of action. He stands ready, of course, to lend his support. In this regard, allow me to add that the Peacebuilding Commission configuration on the Central African Republic could play a catalytic role.

Further to resolution 1923 (2010), MINURCAT has undertaken the planning necessary for the full withdrawal of its civilian and military components by 31 December 2010, and for the Mission's liquidation starting on 1 January 2011, unless the Council decides otherwise. In this connection, I wish to state that the initial drawdown of the military component was carried out in an orderly and secure manner. In that regard, I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation MINURCAT has received from the Government of Chad. I would also like to express my appreciation to all troop- and police-contributing countries for their unfailing support to MINURCAT during this last phase of its mandate.

(spoke in French)

To conclude, I would like to underscore the three following points.

During the six weeks following the adoption of resolution 1923 (2010), the Government of Chad has spared no effort to gradually assume its responsibility for the protection of civilians. When necessary, vigorous action has been taken.

Secondly, the *Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS)* has made considerable progress alongside the

other security forces in providing protection for the humanitarian space. However, a great deal remains to be done by the Government and MINURCAT during the Mission's final few months. Many challenges remain to be overcome. Ensuring the sustainability of the DIS will be a long and painstaking process that will require the full attention of the Government and its partners.

Thirdly and finally, an urgent solution will have to be found over the coming two months to fill the security vacuum following the departure of MINURCAT from the north-eastern Central African Republic.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank Mr. Mahmoud for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency General Antoine Gambi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophone World of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Gambi (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to express my great appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/409) on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which was just introduced by his Special Representative for Chad and the Central African Republic. In follow-up to that report, I should like to underscore a few points that I consider worthy of clarification in order to reach a better understanding of the situation in the Central African Republic and of the legitimate expectations of the people and the Government of the Central African Republic regarding this peacekeeping force.

The current political situation in the Central African Republic is marked by preparations for the legislative and presidential elections that have recently been scheduled for 23 January 2011. As the Council is aware, these elections had initially been scheduled for the end of the first half of 2010. However, despite the firm commitment of the President of the Republic, His Excellency General François Bozizé, to organize the polling within the time frame set by the Constitution, it had to be postponed twice because of the scheduling of pre-election operations. These were disrupted by the delays in the drawing up of voters lists and in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, by the continuing climate of insecurity and, especially, by financial constraints.

Following the postponement, which was requested by our partners, by the political party of the democratic opposition and by civil society and armed groups, the National Assembly adopted constitutional legislation that extended the mandates of the President of the Republic and of Deputies until the next elections. This brought stability to the Central African Republic's institutions in the light of our country's recent history, the general environment and the geostrategic stakes of the conflict, including its well-known regional effects, in particular the crisis in Darfur and its impact on the Central African Republic. All of this has been compounded for over a year now by the presence in the Central African Republic of the Lord's Resistance Army rebellion, which kills, maims and rapes in the eastern part of our country along the border with the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would recall here that the Central African Republic shares no border with Uganda. However, a Ugandan rebellion is currently taking place within the Central African Republic's territory, dealing the worst possible blow to our people and to the economy of our country.

The insecurity and instability in the north-east of the country led the Security Council to decide, through resolution 1861 (2009), to deploy the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, in order to stabilize the region resulting from the long-term consequences of the political and military upheavals of the 1990s.

Now that the mandate of MINURCAT is coming to an end, there is a need to protect the future of this still precarious part of the Central African Republic, which could relapse into violence because of many destabilizing factors such as transborder insecurity, banditry, pockets of rebellion, interethnic conflict, the limited presence of defence and security forces and other emerging challenges.

MINURCAT's mandate was to secure the Birao area, bring limited patrols into that vicinity and protect humanitarian workers and evacuate them if necessary. There was honest cooperation between the Mission and the Central African authorities in discharging this mandate. My Government takes this opportunity to convey its heartfelt gratitude to all the countries that voluntarily and sincerely contributed to this peacekeeping force which truly eased the situation in

Birao and its surrounding areas, as well as in Sam Ouandja in northern Haute-Kotto.

The Mission has also been conducted in a transparent manner, thanks to the vigilance of the Secretary-General, who spared no effort to ensure implementation of the provisions of the contract. However, the announcement of the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, which will have dangerous consequences if we are not careful, has led to a strong response by the Government of the Central African Republic, whose entrenchment in that part of our country is not guaranteed due to the fragility and limited capacity of the security and defence forces.

Hence, a letter dated 15 February 2010 was addressed to the Secretary-General by the President of the Republic and head of State, His Excellency General François Bozizé, requesting advisers, trainers and observers from MINURCAT to assist the Central African Republic armed forces. We welcome with satisfaction paragraph 82 of the report of the Secretary-General, which takes account of the wish of the Central African Republic Government's wish to strengthen its security and defence forces in the north-east of the country — which is the soft underbelly of its territory, marked by permanent insecurity, given its geostrategic position — through the recommendation submitted for the consideration of the members of the Security Council, which my Government hopes to see adopted. What we wish is to have a strong, toughened, sustainable army of the Republic, capable of facing any possible situation.

For that reason, we seek supervisory assistance for the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic, training for the police and the gendarmerie, and follow-up on our equipment needs, including uniforms, clothing, bulletproof vests, vehicles, communication and transmission equipment, observation equipment and barracks.

The current period, which will extend through the end of 2010 and into the beginning of 2011, is especially vital for the Central African Republic. The withdrawal of MINURCAT, the transitional phase, the electoral deadlines, the post-election period, compounded by the referendum in Southern Sudan and by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), are factors which should draw the international community's attention to the problems of the Central African Republic.

The primary responsibility for international peace and security lies with the Security Council. The Central African Republic cannot and does not want to fail, and it therefore counts on the proven support of the Council to meet the aforementioned challenges — and new ones as well.

A wise decision from the Council would be a great relief for us. For its part, the Government of the Central African Republic is already striving, through bilateral consultations, to reactivate agreements related to the joint transborder patrols. It intends to increase the number of the armed forces of the Central African Republic in the north-east to more than the strength of a battalion. For we face huge challenges if we are to protect Birao and its surrounding area, control the gangs of transborder bandits and poachers, ensure the security of refugee camps and control internally displaced persons, and especially combat the LRA rebel groups which have already reached the doorstep of the Vakaga region, to the north of Haute-Kotto.

In the coming weeks, members of the Economic Community of Central African States will engage in dialogue to gauge the possibility of making a contribution to the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report. This recommendation is timely because it falls perfectly within the framework of the security sector reform that the Government of the Central African Republic has had some difficulty in launching owing to a lack of resources. It is also propitious in other ways, as the disarmament and demobilization programme has already started in the north-western region — which should also be the case in the eastern region, where it is proving very difficult to put an end to insecurity.

With a view to ensuring stability throughout our territory in order to enable the people of the Central African Republic to shoulder its civic responsibility, let me stress that the second option proposed by the Secretary-General should be urgently implemented in the coming days. This is urgent because we are approaching the 15 October 2010 date for the end of MINURCAT operations in the north-eastern Central African Republic.

If the principle of accepting paragraph 82 is established, it should be followed with immediate effects. For that reason, the Government is relying on the goodwill of the States participating in MINURCAT to provide it with instructors, appropriate supervisory

assistance and basic equipment for its security and defence forces. A price cannot be put on peace in an operation such as this, where the lives of thousands of people are in danger.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Chad.

Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of August. I should also like to welcome the presence among us of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic and to reaffirm that my country fully shares his heartfelt concerns, stands steadfastly at his side and joins its voice to his in calling for the support of the international community.

With regard to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/409) introduced by his Special Representative Mr. Mahmoud, whose presence I welcome here today, I should like to say that it accurately reflects the reality on the ground and the concerns of various parties, including us and our humanitarian partners. We therefore welcome the high quality of the report.

We take this opportunity to stress that we have spared no effort to respect the implementation of the road map set out in resolution 1923 (2010) of 25 May. Above all, we wish to reiterate our commitment to protecting civilians, especially refugees and internally displaced persons, until their voluntary return to their places of origin. That will involve, without the shadow of a doubt, the *Détachement intégré de sécurité* (DIS) — an institution that, it should be recalled, was originally created by Chad, with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, then strengthened by the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). DIS will need to be maintained and strengthened in terms of personnel, resources, and support for the Chadian security and defence forces. That is currently taking place and will continue after the full withdrawal of MINURCAT.

To give the Council an idea of the efforts we are making to ensure security in the eastern part of the country, I wish to underscore that approximately we are devoting \$12 million of our own resources to that purpose each month. Furthermore, it is our hope that the international community will pursue its efforts to help ease our burden. Specifically, this will require the promised infrastructure to be provided to the benefit, of course, of DIS and our judicial and penal institutions. The trust fund must be maintained after MINURCAT's drawdown in order to meet the needs of DIS, which is a unique pilot force of which the United Nations and Chad should be proud. We have always said that it is a rather unique community police unit whose role on the ground is of major importance. It is only right to reaffirm our recognition of and gratitude to the generous contributors to the fund, and to call for these efforts to be kept up, with the encouragement of the Security Council.

In this regard, I cannot conclude my statement without informing the Council that the plan for the Chadian takeover of DIS, which was expected by the Security Council on 31 July, will be transmitted to the Council as soon as possible. We encountered a delay in awaiting some information from MINURCAT on its takeover of DIS to include in our report.

We have also taken due note of the concerns expressed and comments made by members of the Security Council in various settings, including informal meetings, and we will do our utmost to follow up on them accordingly.

Finally, we reiterate our full cooperation with the United Nations in the accomplishment of its noble peace mission in our country and the subregion.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.